

comparatively dark. We had just left a family celebration and I was paying more attention to people than recording moths.

If, however, there were any doubt whether the species could successfully “hitch-hike” they were dispelled the next day. It was sunny and warm when I left Colchester for the 295 mile journey back to Plymouth, with no sign of any of the *A. cupressella* on my car. Except for a few miles at the beginning and end, the route I took was motorway or main roads and so most of the journey was undertaken at speeds of between 60-70 mph. On arrival home, and very shortly after turning the engine off, I noticed a small moth crawl out from under where the rear edge of the bonnet meets the windscreen. It was a female *A. cupressella*, which was not given the opportunity to extend its range into Devon.

The journey involved two stops, one at Fleet Service Station on the M3, in Hampshire and another at a roadside café near West Knoyle in Wiltshire. Should the species turn up in either of these areas it is possible that my car was the source of introduction. Indeed had I not noticed the specimen on my car when I arrived home it is quite likely that it might have founded a local population here.— R. J. HECKFORD, 67 Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4AW.

The doubtful Moray record of *Lepyrus capucinus* (Schaller) (Col.: Curculionidae)

I am grateful to Mr. A. A. Allen for detailing the circumstances leading to his recording this extremely rare weevil from Morayshire on the basis of a letter from Philip Harwood (*Ent. Rec.* **115**: 126). However, I fear that his suggestion that the specimen is in either Harwood’s collection or the general British collection in the Hope Collections of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History has not been borne out. Both Mr Darren Mann, who curates the collections, and Mr Max Barclay, of The Natural History Museum, London, have searched for the weevil in both of the collections without locating it. I am grateful to both of them for their efforts.

It is possible, though I suggest very unlikely considering the rarity and distinctness of the weevil, that Harwood passed the specimen on to some other entomologist; until it is found I believe that the record is best disregarded. This belief is strengthened by a discrepancy in Hyman & Parsons (1992, *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*, Part I., JNCC, Peterborough). The authors categorised *L. capucinus* as ‘Extinct’, meaning that there have been no records after 1900. They cited the last British record (referred to by Mr Allen) as Bucknill’s from Wellington College in 1897. But Mr Allen states that the date of Harwood’s letter to him is 1947, fifty years after this ‘last record’. This suggests that the Moray record was regarded as problematical by Hyman & Parsons; it does not seem to refer to an occurrence earlier than 1897, and the species was regarded as being extinct in Britain. Until the Harwood specimen (if it exists) is located I suggest that ‘Extinct’ continues to be the appropriate designation for *L. capucinus*.— M. G. MORRIS, Orchard House, 7 Clarence Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2HF (E-mail: mgmorris.ent@virgin.net).